

Who yields time? The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I think I have pretty well said everything I came to say. Let me yield back my time and then if someone else wants to speak, they can come speak. If not, we can just remain in a quorum call until we are ready to vote. With that, let me yield back the remainder of my time, seeing the distinguished majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Texas. Especially I thank the chair of the Senate Finance Committee and the ranking member for their work in getting us to this point.

I simply wanted to come to the floor before the end of the debate to express my strong support for the Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act. This is the first-ever U.S. free trade agreement with an Arab country. I think at these very tenuous and challenging times, there could be no stronger statement for us to make than to pass this legislation. I appreciate very much the work by all of those involved to see that it is done.

I note this agreement was negotiated before the events of September 11. We are moving ahead today because forging this agreement is the right thing to do for the people of the United States. It is also the right thing to do for the people of Jordan. It serves as a statement that our enemy is terrorism, not the Muslim world.

More than a year ago, President Clinton and King Abdullah began discussions about how we could more closely link the United States and Jordan, which, as everyone knows, is an increasingly important and strategic friend in the Middle East. This act is the result of those efforts, an important step in deepening that bond. When President Clinton and King Abdullah signed the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement a year ago, they expressed their concern about the impact of trade on workers and the environment. I share that concern today.

I am pleased that written into the text for the first time ever are several provisions to protect the environment and the rights of workers.

I see this as not only an important bilateral agreement but hopefully a template for future trade agreements as well.

I recognize, as others have noted, that several of my colleagues have concerns about how this agreement is structured, and I thank them for saving this debate for another day and allowing us to move forward on this important legislation.

Our disagreements on this bill are far outweighed by our areas of agreement. We all agree on the strategic importance and good friendship of the Kingdom of Jordan.

Bordering Israel, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, Jordan sits in the middle

of a wide range of critical U.S. national interests—geographically and politically.

This centrality has been bolstered by Jordan's supportive orientation toward U.S. interests. This agreement should stand as a strong symbol of the importance we attach to our relations with Jordan.

The Jordanians have taken admirable steps to improve relations with Israel, including the 1994 peace treaty that helped to advance the Middle East peace process.

This trade agreement, as the foreign assistance and debt relief before it, is a signal to Jordan that we appreciate its efforts at peace in the Middle East and that we hope for more.

That view is held by Israeli Prime Minister Sharon, who, on his first visit to Washington as Prime Minister, urged Congress to pass this historic trade agreement.

This trade agreement is also a signal to King Abdullah that we support his efforts at economic modernization. He and his team have instituted a series of significant economic reforms in order to restore growth.

We understand those reforms, while necessary, are painful. With this vote today, we are telling the Jordanians their reform and austerity will pay dividends.

Lastly, and most importantly, this agreement signals that the United States is not the enemy of the Arab and Muslim world.

Osama bin Laden and his associate extremists argue that the West is waging a war on Islam. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are waging a war on terrorism.

Jordan's participation in this international coalition against terror will only hasten our triumph and isolate the extremists and criminals who attacked America 2 weeks ago.

By further solidifying our important relationship at this critical time, the United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act will give further impetus to the international coalition against terrorism and advance vital U.S. national security interests as well.

For these reasons, I come to the floor in support of H.R. 2603 and hope that all my colleagues will do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. The bill is before the Senate and open to amendment. If there be no amendment to be offered, the question is on the third reading and passage of the bill.

The bill (H.R. 2603) was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2603) was passed.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. GRAMM. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF KIRK VAN TINE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to vote on Executive Calendar No. 385, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kirk Van Tine, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Ex.]

YEAS—97

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| Akaka | Dorgan | McCain |
| Allard | Durbin | McConnell |
| Allen | Edwards | Mikulski |
| Baucus | Enzi | Miller |
| Bayh | Feingold | Murkowski |
| Bennett | Feinstein | Murray |
| Biden | Fitzgerald | Nelson (FL) |
| Bingaman | Frist | Nelson (NE) |
| Bond | Graham | Nickles |
| Boxer | Gramm | Reed |
| Breaux | Grassley | Reid |
| Brownback | Gregg | Roberts |
| Bunning | Hagel | Rockefeller |
| Burns | Harkin | Sarbanes |
| Byrd | Hatch | Schumer |
| Campbell | Helms | Sessions |
| Cantwell | Hollings | Shelby |
| Carnahan | Hutchinson | Smith (NH) |
| Carper | Hutchison | Smith (OR) |
| Chafee | Inhofe | Snowe |
| Cleland | Inouye | Specter |
| Clinton | Johnson | Stabenow |
| Cochran | Kennedy | Stevens |
| Collins | Kerry | Thomas |
| Conrad | Kohl | Thompson |
| Corzine | Kyl | Thurmond |
| Craig | Landrieu | Torricelli |
| Crapo | Leahy | Voinovich |
| Daschle | Levin | Warner |
| Dayton | Lieberman | Wellstone |
| DeWine | Lincoln | Wyden |
| Dodd | Lott | |
| Domenici | Lugar | |

NOT VOTING—3

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| Ensign | Jeffords | Santorum |
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Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.